



NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan Review Comments Available Online

NOAA's Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary is reviewing its management plan, and all comments received during the public comment period have been posted online at <http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov>.

NOAA uses the term "management plan review" to describe this process. The management plan review will take several years to complete and will likely result in a new management plan for the sanctuary. Management plans serve as "blueprints" for future sanctuary operations over the next 5-10 years.

From March to October 2010, the sanctuary held 20 public meetings, dozens of stakeholder constituent meetings, and presentations and briefings for community groups across the state of Hawai'i. The meetings were held to gather public input on the future direction and scope of the sanctuary.

As part of this process, the public was encouraged to provide input on the potential expansion of the sanctuary's scope to protect other marine life besides humpback whales. More information is available in the State of the Sanctuary Report Special Management Plan Review Edition and is available online at:
http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov/management/management_plan_review.html.

Although the official public comment period has ended, the public will still have opportunities to provide input as the sanctuary begins developing its draft management plan. The draft plan will be developed through an extensive public process that involves sanctuary staff, the Sanctuary Advisory Council, local and technical experts, and local stakeholders.

Hawaiian Island Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary is administered jointly by a partnership of NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and the State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources.

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Visit us at <http://www.noaa.gov> or on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/usnoaagov>.

On the Web:

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary:
<http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov>

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